AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

In accordance with the Examiner's comments, paragraph 42([0042]) has been amended as follows:

[0042] Five μg of RNA (purified from frozen skin biopsies obtained from foal n° 1) was reverse transcribed in a volume of 25 μl in the presence of 100 u of M-MLV reverse transcriptase (GIBCO-BRL, Life Technologies, Inc.). One μl of the reaction mixture was then used in PCR amplifications to obtain overlapping cDNA fragments spanning the open reading frame of the horse laminin γ2 chain. Specifically, eight primer pairs were devised on the basis of the most conserved nucleotide sequence between the human (GenBank accession n° Z15008 [Kallunki et al., 1992]) and mouse (GenBank n° NM 008485 [Sugiyama et al., 1995]) laminin γ2 cDNAs (not shown). Direct sequencing of the different PCR amplification products resulted in the disclosure of 82% of the horse laminin γ2 cDNA sequence. Primers specific to the horse γ2 cDNA sequence were then designed to complete and verify the sequence of the full-length γ2 cDNA (Table I). The PCR conditions were: 95°C for 5 minutes, followed by 35 cycles at 95°C for 40 seconds, annealing temperature (Table I) for 40 seconds, 72°C for 40 seconds, and a final elongation for 7 minutes at 72°C. The amplification products were purified using a ~~QIAquick kit (~~ QIAQUICK KIT, a DNA purification kit made by Qiagen Madison, WI, USA), and subjected to automated nucleotide sequencing using an ABI Prism Model 310 Genetic Analyzer (Perkin-Elmer, Foster City, CA).